

At Hamburg a Government Committee was formed, consisting of the Prince of Eckmühl as President, Comte de Chaban, Councillor of State, who superintended the departments of the Interior and Finance, and of M. Faure, Councillor of State, who was appointed to form and regulate the Courts of Law. I had sometimes met M. de Chaban at Malmaison. He was distantly related to Josephine, and had formerly been an officer in the French Guards. He was compelled to emigrate, having been subjected to every species of persecution during the Revolution.¹

M. de Chaban was among the first of the emigrants who returned to France after the 18th Brumaire. He was at first made Sub-Prefect of Vendôme, but on the union of Tuscany with France Napoleon created him a member of the Junta appointed to regulate the affairs of Tuscany. He next became Prefect of Coblenz and Brussels, was afterwards a Count by Bonaparte, and was afterwards chosen a member of the Government Committee at Hamburg. M. de Chaban was a man of upright principles, and he discharged his various functions in a way that commanded esteem and attachment.³

The Hanseatic Towns, united to the Grand Empire professedly for their welfare, soon felt the influence of the new organization of a regenerating Government. They were at once presented with the stamp-duty, registration, the lottery, the *drotts reunis*, the tax on cards, and the *ortrtn*. This prodigality of presents caused, as we may be sure, the most lively

¹ I recollect an anecdote which but too well depicts the Comte de Chaban, being obliged to flee France during the Reign of Terror, was compelled to assume a disguise. He accordingly provided himself with a smock-frock, a cart and harness, and a low stool of corn. In this manner he journeyed from place to place till he reached the frontiers. He stopped at Ruchambon, in the Vendôme, where he was recognised by the Marshal de Rochambeau, who, to guard against the exciting party's suspicions, treated him as if he had really been a carman, and said to him, "You may ditto in the kitchen." -/tnHrri'ntw*

² ** If," tmys tint Cnmtt) Alexandre de Mauguin (p, l'S>), who was employed under Chaban in 1811 at Hamburg, "any one could see the positions (of Manihel iHivcumt), not by his very limited influence given by a patriarchal and reproachful letter, true moderation, and undoubted honesty, it was this Comte de Chabati, Ouncillor

of Htate, charged
with the finance of the Ncirth^rn DejuurttnentA, lately
atmexnd. He was
loved and <*Kteemed at- Hamburg, where he often
succeeded In rwluetng the
burden* iwid In nmdering the pcfliUon lew i»aiitful.^M
Chabftn died of typhus
at Hamburg in 1812.